













The  
Gem  
City  
of  
the  
Berkshires.

STOCKS, BONDS, AND REAL ESTATE,  
AND ALL THE FINANCIAL BUSINESS  
OF THE CITY AND VICINITY,  
AND THE INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL,  
AND THE MANAGEMENT OF ESTATES.

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## PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

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THE FAME of this beautifully located city in the center of the Berkshire Hills, has traveled far and wide, and few indeed are the visitors who have not heard of its attractiveness. Its scenery, its traditions, its ideal location, its lakes, and its drives, have been the subject of song and story for generations and people come to it from all sections of the country expecting to be interested, amused, and charmed. With the idea of aiding the visitor in seeing that which is best worth seeing during a brief sojourn in Pittsfield, this little pamphlet is issued.

The men who selected the site of Pittsfield could not have chosen a more delightful spot in which to lay the foundation of what has come to be the gem city of western Massachusetts. Laid out in a natural amphitheatre, the hills surround and encompass it, and its broad streets lead in all directions to points of beauty and interest. An excellent idea of the city's situation may be obtained from the roof of The Wendell hotel,



BERKSHIRE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING FROM THE PARK.

the Berkshire Life Insurance Company building, or the Berkshire County Savings Bank building, all of which are located very nearly in the center of the city. Perhaps to one starting out to see Pittsfield, nothing could be more helpful nor more certain to enlist an eager interest, than a visit to the roof of one of these buildings from which magnificent views of the city's surroundings are obtainable. These buildings, by the way, are among the finest in Berkshire County and are prominent as architectural attractions of Pittsfield.

Just in the center of the city, lies what is called The Park, a small oval-shaped space, sodded, curbed, and shaded by towering elms. The Park is not only Pittsfield's geographical center, but it is also the center of the city's life and its traditions. In the early days of the old town this was an open space over which the village cows grazed contentedly. Happily, the space was preserved, and as early as 1812 it was recognized as the public green, and some improvements to that end were made. In those days its most prominent feature was the "Old Elm," a magnificent specimen of its kind, which stood near the center of the present Park. It was 120 feet high, and 90 feet to the first limb. This tree became historic, for under its shade much transpired that has helped to make Pittsfield's history nota-



BERKSHIRE COUNTY SAVINGS BANK BUILDING

ble The tree stood until 1862, and when, becoming unsafe, it was cut down, the people of the town mourned it as an old friend. From time to time the former "green" has been improved until it is today a delightful little spot in the very heart of the city. At the western end of the Park, facing the entrance and looking off to the western hills, stands the soldiers' monument. The bronze figure of "The Color Sergeant," which surmounts the granite pedestal, is the work of Launt Thompson, and there are few more beautiful bronzes in the country. This monument, which cost \$10,000, was dedicated in 1872, the dedicatory address being delivered by the late George William Curtis. An interesting thing about this bit of land, is that here was held the first "cattle show," so called, ever held in the United States. The society which held it has been in continuous existence ever since, and its annual fair at its spacious grounds in the north part of the town, is one of the notable events of the autumn season.

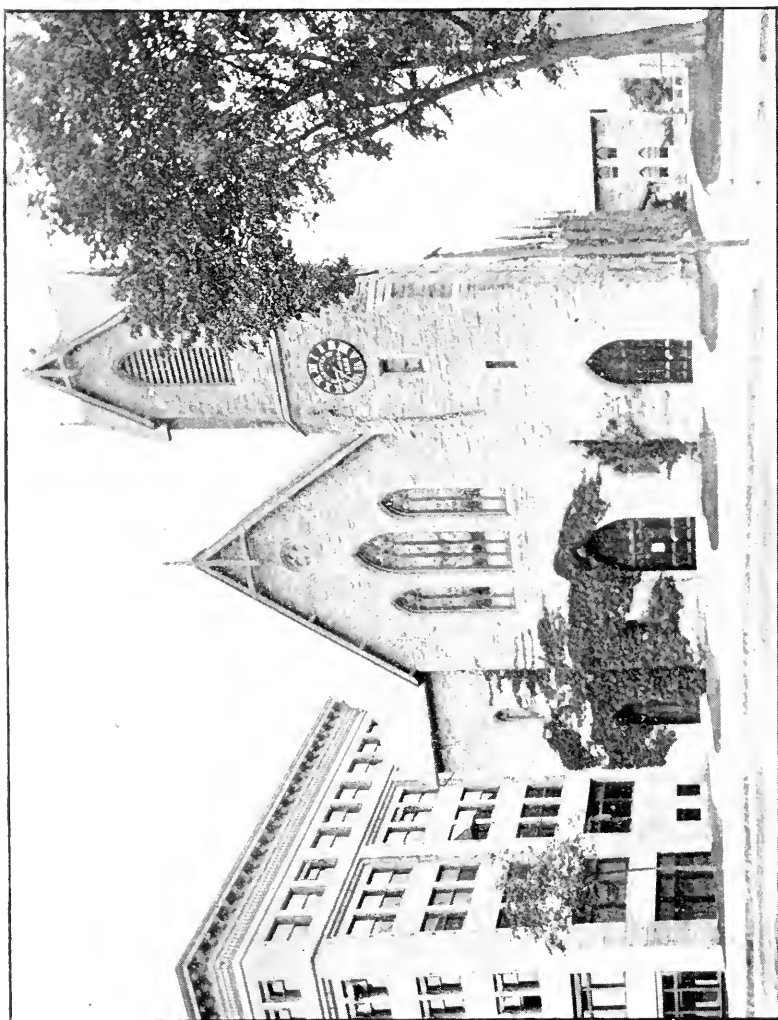
The Park is almost wholly surrounded by public buildings, some of them of much historic interest. To the north stands the Savings Bank building, a beautiful modern structure occupied entirely as an office building. Next east is the fine old gray stone structure



BISHOP WORTHINGTON'S HOUSE, EAST STREET.

of the First Congregational Church, which society has been closely identified with Pittsfield's history from the very first. The early pastor of this church, was the famous "Fighting Parson" Rev. Thomas Allen who led the patriotic men of Berkshire to assist Gen. Stark in the battle of Bennington. Dr. John Todd a famous preacher, writer and scholar, was long its pastor and on its records are scores of names which have been prominent in state and national history. The venerable structure next east, is the old town hall, now enlarged and dignified into the home of the city government. This building has been the scene of many famous and stirring gatherings and in it was formerly to be seen a most impressive exemplification of the old "Town meeting" idea. Its walls have echoed to the eloquence of such men as Hon Henry L. Dawes, the late Governor Briggs and scores of others who have been prominently identified with state and national affairs. Just beyond the city hall to the east, stands St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, a brown stone edifice of much architectural beauty and located almost exactly upon the site of the society's original church building.

Across the park to the east, stands the Court house, a building constructed of white marble from Sheffield.



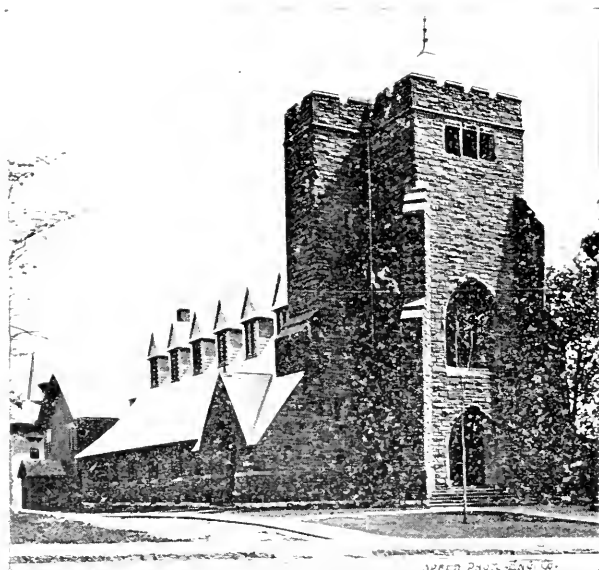
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



It is surrounded by broad lawns shaded by fine old elms and is one of the more prominent of the public buildings of the city. To the west of the Court house stands the Athenaeum a very handsome building of native blue stone, the home of the free public library and museum. The building was a gift to the city, by the late Hon. Thomas Allen, a grandson of Parson Allen, and has recently been much enlarged. The library contains some 35000 volumes, free to the use of the inhabitants of Pittsfield. There is a fine art gallery and a very interesting museum in the building.

The city is divided by four main streets named East, West, North and South streets, running from the Park in the directions indicated by the names. All are of good breadth and are well kept, beautiful thoroughfares. From these main streets, others branch in all directions and these are all well kept, finely shaded and lined with comfortable homes.

Walking down East street from the Park, one sees to the left, the fine residence of the late Thomas Allen, known as "Eagle's Nest." Nearly opposite is the St. Stephen's Rectory, formerly the residence of Edward S. Newton, a fine specimen of old colonial architecture. Next on the east is the fine mansion of Bishop Worthington of Nebraska, which was erected by Hon. Henry W.



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Bishop, the donor of the building of the Training School for Nurses connected with the House of Mercy Hospital. The street is lined with fine old houses, among them "Elm Knoll," the Plunkett homestead, formerly the summer residence of Hon. Nathan Appleton of Boston. In this house Longfellow, Mr. Appleton's son-in-law, wrote "The Old Clock on the Stairs."

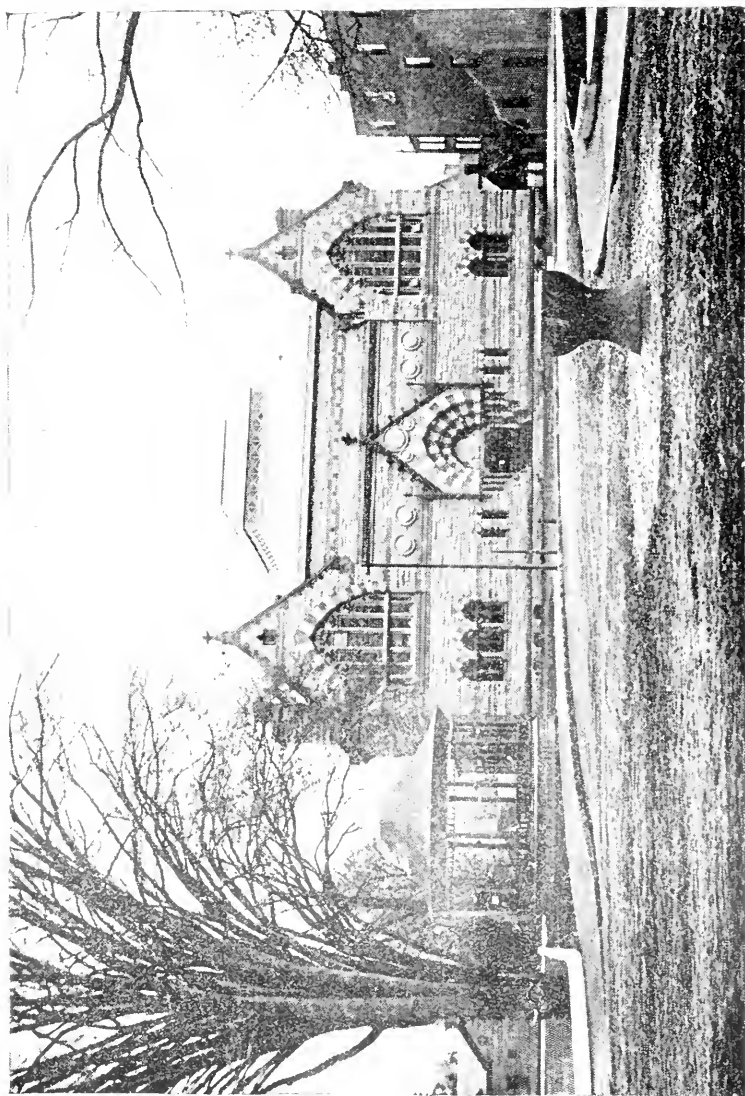
East street divides into Elm and Beaver streets. On Elm street is the home of Hon. Henry L. Dawes, ex-Senator of Massachusetts. Elm street leads toward the famous "Grey Tower," the former residence of the Pollock family and in the neighborhood of which a fine residential section is growing up.

Turning south from the Park, one gazes down as charming a street as can be found in many day's journeyings. The roadway is broad and is bordered on either side with turf extending from curb to walk. On both sides of the walks are rows of stately elms or maples whose dense foliage make most grateful shade. A short distance below the Park, stands the Berkshire County Home for Aged Women, a substantial brick structure housing a model institution of its kind. A short distance farther down on the opposite side of the street, is the South Church, an offspring of the old First Church. South street like East, is lined with fine



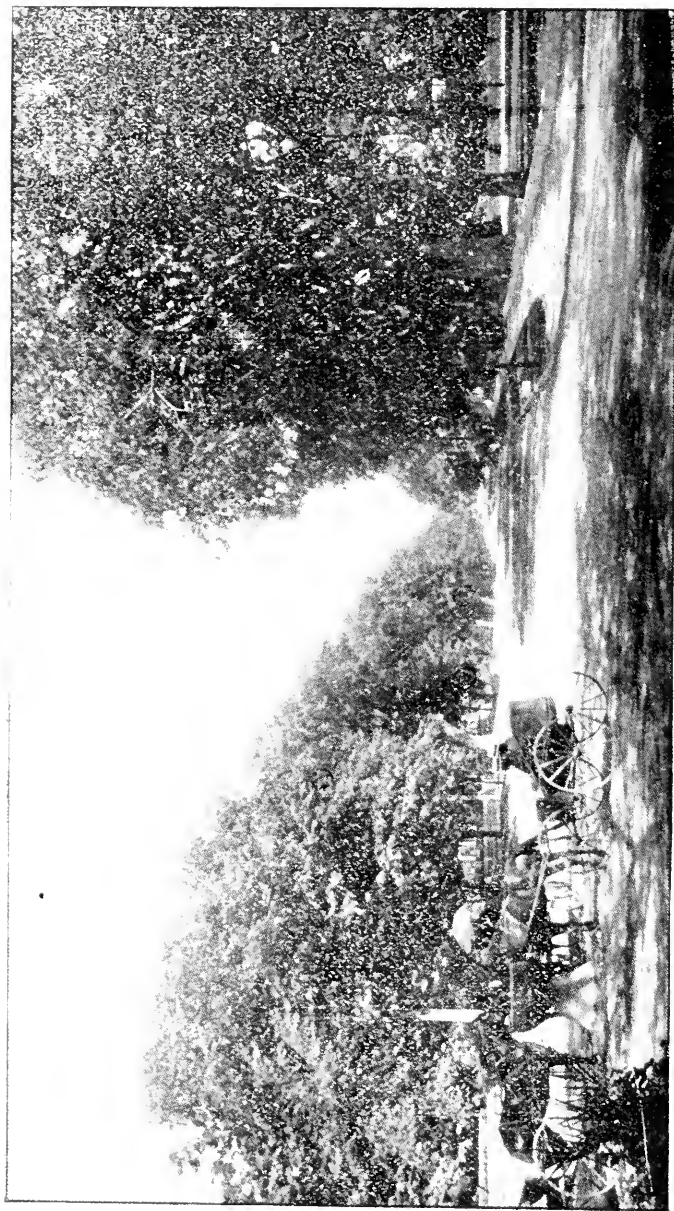
homes among the more notable being the Pingree, the Dr. West, and the Eaton homes. Further on, something like a mile and a half from the Park, stands "Broad Hall," the Morewood place, known to many as the Melville place. The house was built in 1781 by Henry VanSchaack and during its later history, as a boarding house, numbered among its guests Longfellow, Hawthorne, Herman Melville, and President Tyler. Count Llewenhaupt, the then Danish minister, occupied the house some years ago as a summer residence and entertained there many foreign notables. To the southeast of "Broad Hall" is "Arrowhead," the Melville estate, and here, Herman Melville wrote some of his best works, among them being "Moby Dick," the "Piazza Tales," "My Chimney and I," and "October Mountain." After passing "Broad Hall" one comes to South Mountain from the summit of which delightful views over Pittsfield and on to Greylock, towering at the north, may be had.

Returning to the Park and proceeding north, by North street, one finds himself in the business center of this busy city. The street is lined with substantial business blocks, many of them being of modern construction and design. The Berkshire Life Insurance Company's building and the Savings Bank block face



BERKSHIRE ATHENÆUM

each other at the south end of the street, and are both striking buildings. Central block, the two England buildings, the Hull & Morton building, Wollison's block, the Wright block, the Merrill and Mills' blocks, and the Melville building are among the more prominent business structures which grace this broad avenue. At the bridge is located the New American House, a fine modern hotel building. At the corner of School street stands the First Baptist Church. Farther up is the handsome property of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, including the striking stone church, the convent, and the parochial school in the rear. Just opposite this church, stands the modest little church edifice of the Unitarian society, called Unity Church. A short distance north of these churches, stands Maplewood, one of the most noted and popular summer hotels in the Berkshire Hills. The buildings are fronted by a spacious lawn shaded with elm trees and the spot is a most inviting one. It was formerly occupied as a Cantonment. In the rear of Maplewood and connected with it, is a building of great historical interest, it being what was formerly the old First Church, and having the distinction of having been designed by Charles Bulfinch, the famous architect who designed the old State House at Boston. It is an excellent example of



EAST STREET,  
LOOKING EAST FROM THE PARK.

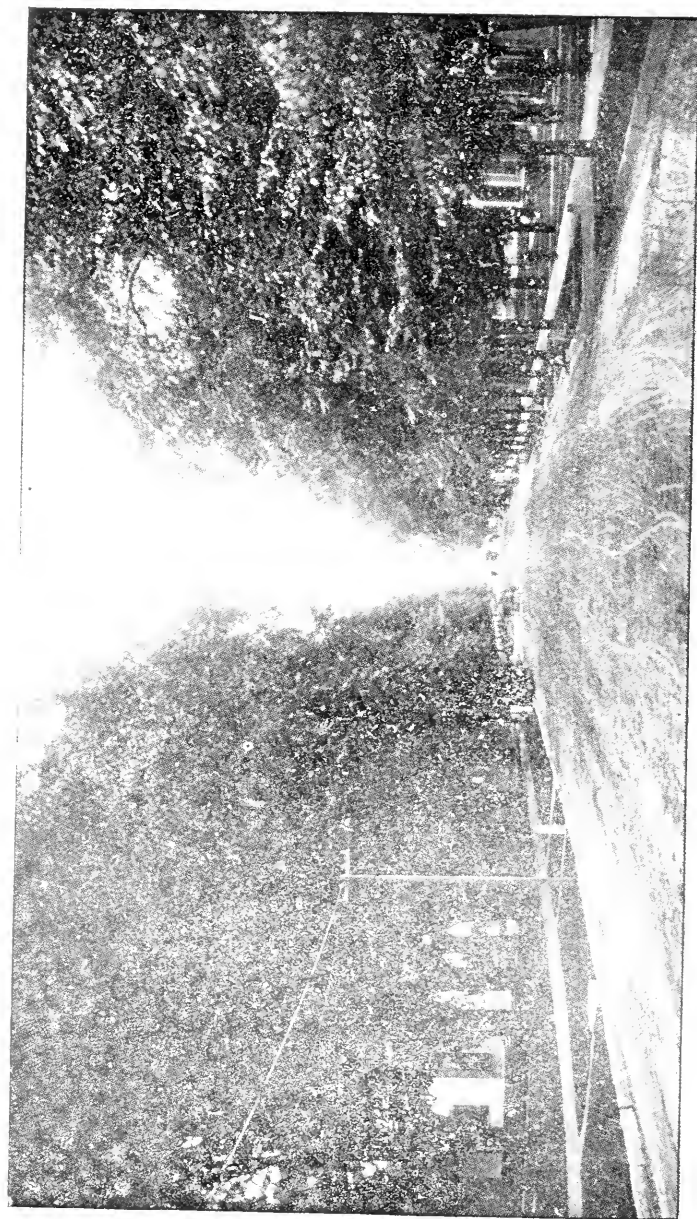


the old time church architecture, although the steeple has been greatly curtailed, and is used as a gymnasium and dancing hall by the hotel guests. This structure was begun in 1780, finished in 1783, and served the purposes of the First Church people until 1851.

Continuing on up North street and bearing to the right, one comes to the House of Mercy, one of the most successful and notable examples of the cottage hospital to be found in this country. In connection with it is the Henry W. Bishop 3d Memorial Training School for Nurses.

West street is given up largely to business purposes as far west as the railroad, but beyond that its character changes and one finds many fine residences along the elm-shaded road. The old Governor Briggs' place stands a short distance beyond the railroad. Farther on is the Learned place, and beyond that still, the fine new residence of Mrs H. B. Daniels of Denver, Col. The fine Walker place, "Blythewood," lies just to the west of Onota lake, and is one of the most striking summer residences in Berkshire.

Leading out of North street, just north of the Baptist Church, is Fenn street, another business street, and on it stands the Methodist Church, one of the

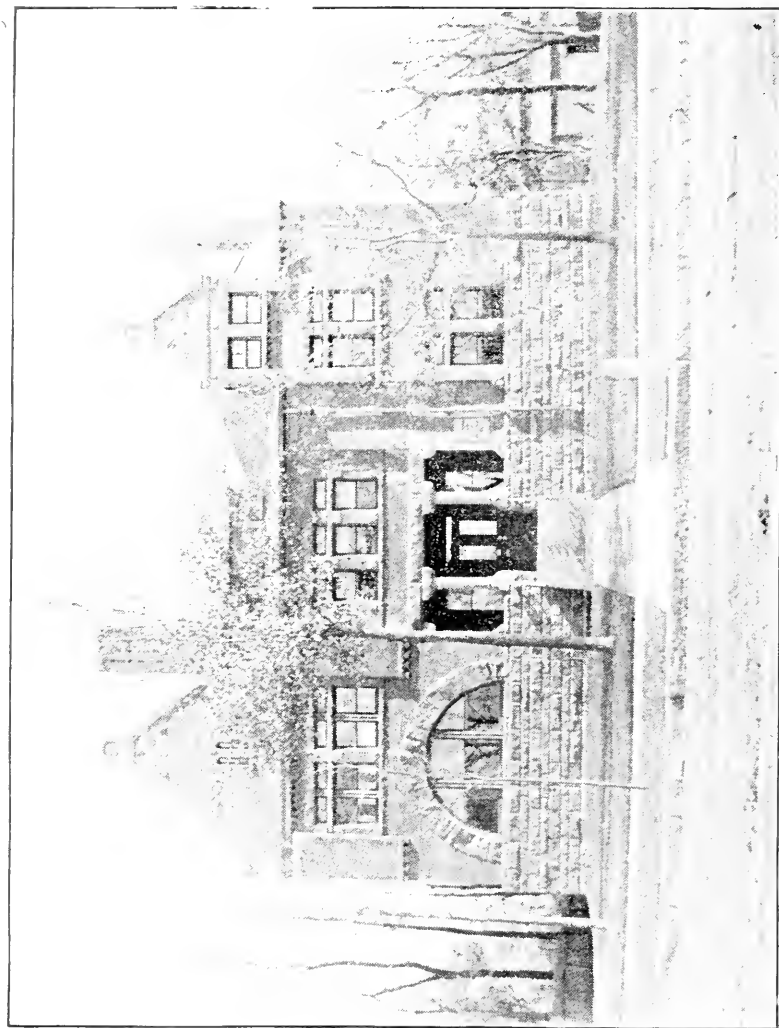


VIEW OF SOUTH STREET.

handsomest and most imposing church edifices in the western part of the state.

Driving off to the southeast, one finds the handsome home of Col. Walter Cutting, and just beyond it, "Holmesdale," the residence of Mrs. William Pollock. Much interest attaches to this place from the fact that it was at one time the residence of Oliver Wendell Holmes. A short distance to the north, on the middle road, is the Sampson place, a very striking old colonial house beautifully located. To the west, by way of Middle street and Dawes avenue, will be found the club house and links of the Pittsfield Golf Club, the course being one of the best and most popular in the county.

There are numerous charming outing places in the immediate vicinity, among the most prominent, and certainly the most popular, being Pontoosuc lake. This beautiful sheet of water has an area of some five hundred and seventy-five acres and lies at the northern boundary of the city, about two and one-half miles from the city proper. The highway runs along the eastern shore and about the lake are several fine groves where camping and picnic parties find delightful spots for a day's outing. The outlet, or lower end of the lake, is lined with pavilions and private boat houses



BERKSHIRE COUNTY HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.

and the grove here is open to the public. Along the south shore are numerous cottages erected by the townspeople and these are occupied during the entire summer. On the east shore stands the large club house of the Pittsfield Boat Club, an organization of large membership and great popularity. There are ample accommodations of all kinds and the lake is known far and wide as one of the beauty spots of Berkshire.

Onota Lake, which lies some two miles to the west of the city, is somewhat larger than Pontoosuc and rivals it in beauty. On the east shore is situated Burbank Park, owned by the city and as yet unimproved. This is reached by a lovely drive along the east shore running from Peck's road, and is the only portion of the shore open to the public. One of the finest views in the county is gained from West street just south of the lake, the view opening across the water and on to the towering summit of Greylock at the north end of the county. It is expected that in time a line of street cars will be run to Burbank Park and Onota lake will then be a real rival to Pontoosuc in the matter of popularity as a resort.

Richmond lake, lying partly in the town of Richmond, and Queechy lake, some nine miles west lying in New York state, are other popular sheets of water ad-



VIEW OF WEST STREET FROM THE PARK.

ja-cent to Pittsfield, and there are numerous smaller ponds which have their claims to public favor.

Driving off to the northwest, to the vicinity of Potter mountain, one may easily visit Lulu cascade, a pretty little fall of water which has long been a favorite camping ground and picnic resort. Going this way, one may also visit Balance Rock, Berkshire's greatest natural curiosity. This great boulder is so evenly balanced that it may be moved by a lever, and it is well worth visiting.

Visitors will be interested in going to Dalton, a very pretty town six miles to the east, where is situated the famous government mill where the United States bond and bank note papers are made and also the great paper mills of the Cranes'. Dalton is the home of Governor W. Murray Crane, and the residences of the Crane families are among the handsomest in the county. While at Dalton, visitors should make the trip to Waheconah falls, a mile or two beyond the town, as it is a spot of great beauty and much historic interest.

Pittsfield's main street leads directly to Lenox, the famous resort which lies some six miles south of the city, the drive thence being one of the finest in all the county. At Lenox may be seen some of the handsom-



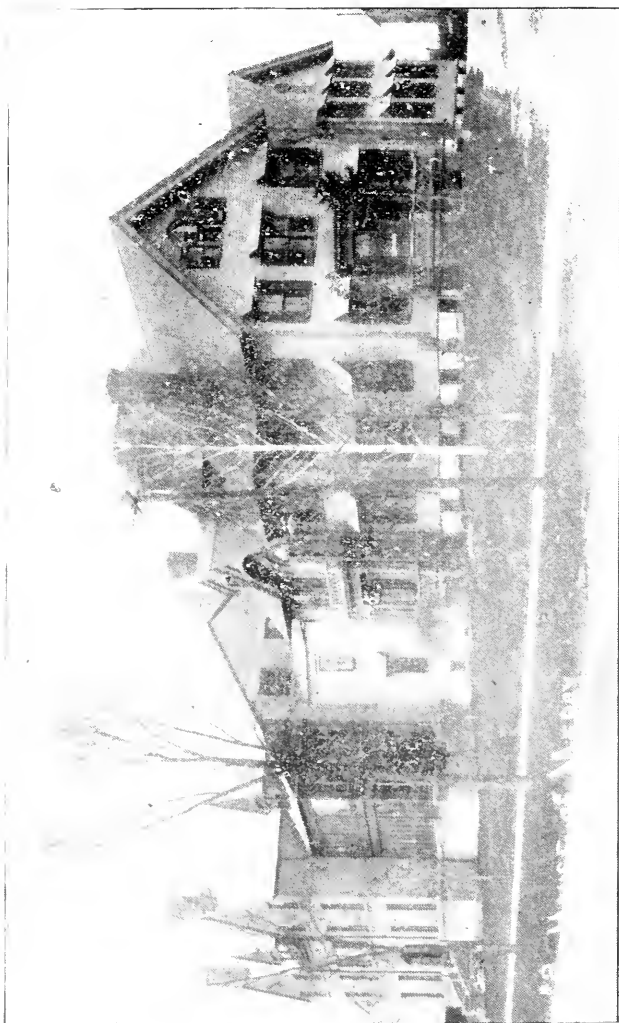
VIEW OF NORTH STREET--FROM THE PARK.



est and largest private residences in the United States and the views from its many hills are unsurpassed. On the road to Lenox, a short distance south of the city, will be found the entrance to South Mountain, which commands a charming view of Pittsfield and its surroundings. A good road leads to the top of the mountain.

Another popular outing place, is Perry's Peak, a slightly eminence situated at Richmond, a few miles to the southwest. From its summit one finds magnificent views in all directions, the one which looks down across Queechy lake being particularly fine.

All of these pleasure spots are easily accessible by team or wheel, and many of them are within easy walking distance of the center of the city. Full directions as to reaching these and all other points of interest, are given in the pamphlet "Drives and Walks" which is issued gratuitously by the Berkshire Life Insurance Company.



HOUSE OF MERCY -



PONTOOSUC LAKE, WITH GREYLOCK IN THE DISTANCE.



VIEW ABOVE WAHCONAH FALLS.



BALANCE ROCK.

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